

Message Text

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UNCLAS BERLIN 03139

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: INCREASED FY-79 FUNDING FOR EXCHANGES.

REF: A) P&C BERLIN CPP SUBMITTED 4/13/78, B) BERLIN 3100

1. THE POST HAS INCLUDED IN ITS FY-79-80 COUNTRY PLAN PROPOSAL A 110 PERCENT BUDGET PACKAGE, WITH ALL ADDITIONAL FUNDS EARMARKED FOR EXCHANGES. THE REQUESTED \$30,000 INCREASE WOULD BRING THE EXCHANGE BUDGET (EXCLUSIVE OF IREX) TO \$40,000 AND PERMIT TWO AMERICAN SPECIALISTS VISITS TO THE GDR FOR POST-SPONSORED PROGRAMS, AND EIGHT GDR PARTICIPANTS IN MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS UNDER THE IV PROGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, IT WOULD ENABLE THE POST TO PROVIDE PARTIAL IV GRANTS ON AN AD HOC BASIS TO OTHER GDR PRIMARY AUDIENCE MEMBERS.

2. AS INDICATED IN THE EXCHANGE PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED WITH THE CPP, THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGES ARE CONTEMPLATED FOR FY-79, WITH COMPARABLE PROJECTS IN FY-80:

A) VISIT BY LEE STRASBERG, DIRECTOR OF ACTOR'S STUDIO, NYC, FOR ONE-WEEK SERIES OF WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS WITH GDR THEATRE ORGANIZATIONS.

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B) VISIT BY A MAJOR AMERICAN LITERARY FIGURE FOR A SERIES OF READINGS, LECTURES, AND SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS WITH GDR WRITERS AND ACADEMICIANS.

C) ONE GDR POLITICAL SCIENTIST IN MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT "POLITICS AND ELECTIONS".

D) ONE GDR SPECIALIST IN MRP "CIVIL LIBERTIES".

E) ONE GDR MEDIA SPECIALIST IN MRP "CROSSROADS AND DIRECTIONS IN NEW WORLD COMMUNICATIONS ORDER".

F) ONE GDR MEDIA SPECIALIST IN MRP "INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION PROJECT".

G) ONE GDR WRITER IN "IOWA INTERNATIONAL WRITERS WORKSHOP".

H) ONE GDR ECONOMIC SPECIALIST IN MRP "INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS".

I) ONE GDR COMMERCIAL SPECIALIST IN MRP "INTERNATIONAL MARKETING INSTITUTE".

J) ONE OFFICIAL OF GDR CULTURAL FEDERATION IN MRP "COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM".

POST WOULD SEEK TO HAVE GDR SIDE PROVIDE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR MRP PARTICIPANTS, BOTH IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE GDR TO REGARD THESE PROGRAMS AS COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION WITH AVAILABLE U.S. FUNDS. HOWEVER, \$40,000 WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER ALL TEN PROJECTS, EVEN IF IT IS NECESSARY TO FUND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL IN SOME INSTANCES.
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REMAINING FUNDS WOULD BE USED FOR AD HOC TRAVEL GRANTS TO GDR PRIMARY AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO ARE VISITING THE U.S. UNDER OTHER AUSPICES IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE MAXIMUM EXCHANGE POTENTIAL FROM THESE VISITS.

3. IF THE REQUESTED FUNDING INCREASE IS GRANTED, POST WILL PROPOSE ALL EIGHT PROJECTS TO APPROPRIATE GDR AUTHORITIES. BASED ON RECENT POST EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH AND THROUGH GDR BUREAUCRACY ON EXCHANGES WE ARE OPTIMISTIC WE CAN NOMINATE SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR ALL EIGHT PROJECTS. AS POST'S ANALYSIS OF BILATERAL COMMUNICATION ENVIRONMENT STATES, "THE PREVAILING TENSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ARE THE CONSEQUENCE OF SOME THIRTY YEARS OF ISOLATION AND ABSENCE OF DIALOGUE..." AND INCREASED ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND GDR IS A MAJOR EMBASSY GOAL. RECENT PROGRESS IN EXCHANGES AS REPORTED REF. B SUGGESTS INCREASED FUNDS COULD HAVE IMMEDIATE IMPACT IN ENCOURAGING GREATER DIRECT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN U.S. AND GDR SPECIALISTS. ALEXANDER

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